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By:  Guillen H.R. No. 698

R E S O L U T I O N

WHEREAS, Former Texas State Representative J. A. Garcia Jr. of Raymondville has dedicated much of his life to serving his community and his state, and he is truly deserving of special recognition; and

WHEREAS, Joseph Alexander Garcia Jr. was born in Brownsville in 1936 to J. A. and Bertha Garcia; after earning a bachelor's degree from the College of Agriculture at Texas A&I University in 1960, he worked for 12 years as the manager of the Garcia Ranch; since 1977, he has been the owner and manager of JASA Ranch LLC; and

WHEREAS, In May 1968, Mr. Garcia won a special election to fill the vacant house seat for District 48-F, which encompassed Brooks, Cameron, Kenedy, and Willacy Counties, and voters returned him to office for the 61st and 62nd Legislatures; over the course of his tenure in the house, he served on the Agriculture, Livestock, Liquor Regulation, and State Affairs Committees for multiple sessions and was vice chair of the Claims Committee during the 62nd Regular Session in 1971; his accomplishments included introducing the legislation that created Texas A&I University at Corpus Christi and the bill that created a Texas Parks and Wildlife stamp to better regulate the hunting of the white wing dove; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Garcia concluded his legislative service in 1972, the same year he began his work as the chief fiscal officer for Texas A&I University at Corpus Christi, a position he held until 1977; in 1983, he became the Kenedy County judge, and he continued to preside over the commissioners court for 27 years before stepping down in 2010; and

WHEREAS, This esteemed civic leader has played an integral role in numerous community and business organizations; he was chair of the Willacy County Red Cross and the Kenedy County Democratic Executive Committee, and he held membership on the boards of the Texas A&I University Alumni Association, American Red Cross Coastal Bend Texas, the Raymondville Chamber of Commerce, Harlingen National Bank, and the Willacy County Beef Syndicate; in addition, he was a member of the Matamoros/Brownsville Bi-National Planning Commission and the Housing Commission of the Lower Rio Grande Valley Development Council; since 1996, he has served on the board of the John G. and Marie Stella Kenedy Memorial Foundation, and he has been the foundation's president for the past 18 years; and

WHEREAS, In all his endeavors, Mr. Garcia enjoys the love and support of his wife, the former Sue Ann Barr, and his children, J. Alex Garcia III, Felicia Ann Garcia Baldwin, and Sandra Sue Garcia Burns; and

WHEREAS, Known affectionately as "Sporty," J. A. Garcia has spent more than a half century working in behalf of his fellow South Texas residents, and he may indeed reflect with pride on his many achievements; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 86th Texas Legislature hereby commend the Honorable J. A. Garcia Jr. for his distinguished record of public service and extend to him sincere best wishes for continued success and happiness; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be prepared for Mr. Garcia as an expression of high regard by the Texas House of Representatives.